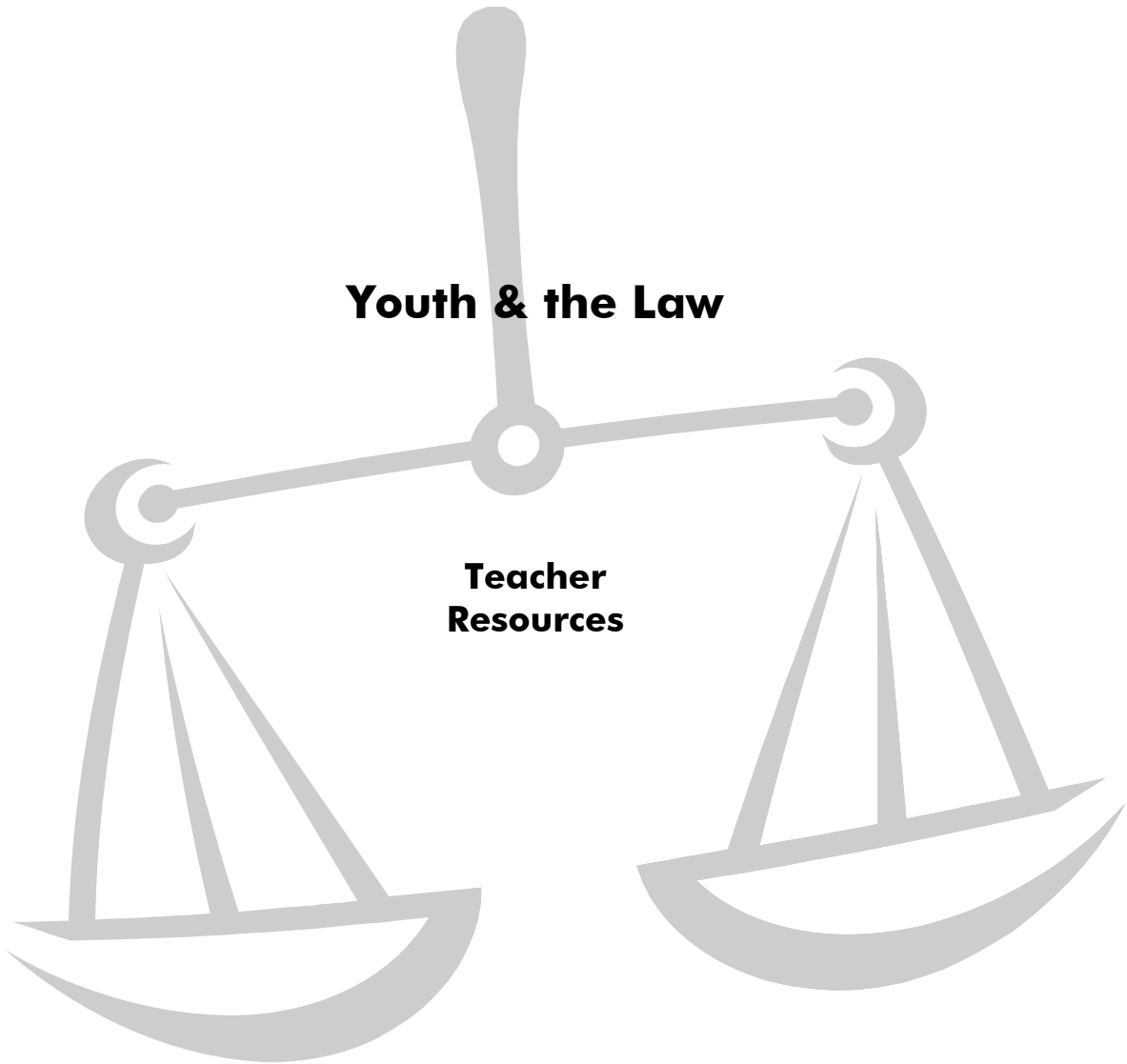


Youth & the Law

Teacher Resources



Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center

925 W. Ottawa St.
P.O. Box 30205
Lansing, MI 48909
517-373-7229
web: courts.mi.gov/plc/

The future of our nation is in the hands of our young people. Many will come into contact with the legal system, whether through family court, foster care, or the juvenile justice system. In addition, all youth need to understand their rights and responsibilities under the law to become effective participants in our nation's civic life. The following list includes a number of resources related to youth and the law, present and past.

General Sources

Annual Reports of Michigan State Courts, Michigan Supreme Court

<http://courts.michigan.gov/scao/resources/publications/reports/statistics.htm#annual>

Includes highlights about court programs, including Child Welfare Services, Friend of the Court Bureau, and Problem-Solving Courts.

The Court and Young People, New York Life History of the Supreme Court

<http://www.historyofsupremecourt.org/history/youngpeople/opener.htm>

A portion of a larger web site, this section traces important U.S. Supreme Court cases and the history of children under the law. Includes a timeline of selected cases.

Juvenile and Emancipation Matters, Calhoun County Courts

<http://courts.co.calhoun.mi.us/questjuv.htm>

Numerous answers to frequently asked questions related to youths in Michigan.

Information on Family Legal Issues, State Bar of Michigan

<http://www.michiganequalaccess.org>

Comprehensive legal information for young people and adults who care for them.

Topics include arrests, adoption, abuse and neglect, and medical treatment.

Law Day 2007, American Bar Association

<http://www.lawday.org>

Resources and lesson plans related to Liberty under Law: Empowering Youth, Assuring Democracy.

Michigan Juvenile Law Source Book, State Court Administrative Office

<http://courts.michigan.gov/scao/resources/publications/manuals/mijuvlawscbk.htm>

Links to the Juvenile Code, Michigan Adoption Code, Child Protection Law, and other laws.

You and the Law, State Bar of Michigan

<http://www.michbar.org/publications/pdfs/y&l.pdf>

A booklet for teens that outlines their expanding rights and responsibilities.

Your Guide to the Michigan Courts

<http://courts.michigan.gov/plc/AccessMichCourts.pdf>

A quick reference guide explaining the jurisdiction of trial courts.

Teaching Youth about the Law

Many organizations conduct law-related education, including the following organizations.

American Bar Association, Division for Public Education

<http://www.abanet.org/publiced/youth/home.html>

Michigan Center for Civic Education

<http://www.oakland.k12.mi.us/resources/miciviced/index.htm>

Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center

<http://courts.michigan.gov/plc/>

StreetLaw

<http://www.streetlaw.org/>

Youth for Justice

<http://www.youthforjustice.org/>

Family Law

“Family law” concerns the elements of family. The Family Division of Circuit Court focuses on the needs of families and the special legal problems that arise in those cases. The division has jurisdiction over divorce, child custody, child support, paternity, adoptions, name changes, juvenile proceedings, emancipation of minors, parental consent, and personal protection proceedings. The Family Division also houses the Friend of the Court, which handles cases involving child custody, parenting time, and support.

The Adoption History Project, University of Oregon

<http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~adoption/index.html>

A variety of resources related to the history of adoption in the United States.

Family Law, Self-Help Center, State Court Administrative Office

<http://courts.michigan.gov/scao/selfhelp/selfhelphome.htm>

To find information about family law, click on the Topics menu; then click on Family.

Information is available on the following topics: Domestic Relations, Children, Adoption, Personal Protection, Miscellaneous, and Setting Aside Adjudication.

Friend of the Court Bureau, State Court Administrative Office

<http://courts.michigan.gov/scao/services/focb/focb.htm>

Includes links to resources about child support, custody, and parenting time.

Juvenile Justice

When a young person is charged with an offense, the case can proceed in one of two ways. If the young person stays in the juvenile system, the case is not, technically, a true criminal case. Where a juvenile has committed a serious matter, however, the person can be tried as an adult and later sentenced to prison. The evolving law in this area reflects the tension between the desire to give young people a chance to reform and the need to protect society against serious offenders.

General Information

Juvenile Offenders and Victims: 2006 National Report, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP)

<http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/ojstatbb/nr2006/>

Includes information on all aspects of juveniles and the law. Chapter 4 contains a history of juvenile justice system and how juveniles are handled under federal law.

Arrested: Girls and the Law, Skillman Center, Wayne State University

<http://www.skillmancenter.wayne.edu/arrested.pdf> (guide for youths)

<http://www.skillmancenter.wayne.edu/Guidebook.pdf> (guide for adults)

Although written for girls, the resources offer information that applies to boys as well.

Juvenile Justice, Frontline, PBS

<http://www-c.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/juvenile/>

Video, text, and other resources comparing the fates of four teens, two treated as juveniles and two sentenced as adults.

Restorative Justice

Restorative justice is a philosophy that views crime as a violation of people and relationships. Programs that emphasize restorative justice focus on repairing the harm done by the offender by bringing together the offender, victims, family members, and the community.

Model Programs: Restorative Justice, OJJDP

<http://www.dsgonline.com/mpg2.5/restorative.htm>

Discussion of restorative justice with a database of model programs.

Restorative Justice, Federal Youth Court Program

<http://www.youthcourt.net/publications/RJ.htm>

Detailed explain of restorative justice and its application in teen courts.

Safer Saner Schools

<http://www.safersanerschools.org/>

Information and seminars for applying the restorative justice model in k–12 schools.

Teen Court

Youth who commit minor offenses such as petty theft, possession of alcohol, or disorderly conduct sometimes participate in teen court, where they receive consequences not from the juvenile court system but from a “jury” of their peers.

Federal Youth Court Program

<http://www.youthcourt.net/>

Comprehensive information about teen court programs across the U.S.

Innovations in District Court: Teen Court, Michigan Bar Journal, February 2004

<http://www.michbar.org/journal/pdf/pdf4article671.pdf>

Brief article about teen court by judges of 52nd District Court.

Selected Timeline of Juvenile Justice in Michigan

- 1856 The House of Correction for Juvenile Offenders opened in Lansing.
- 1879 A separate institution for females, the Correctional Facility for Girls, was established.
- 1907 The first juvenile court was established in the State of Michigan. Each county was required to provide a place of detention separate from jail.
- 1939 The proceedings of juvenile court were defined as being non-criminal.
- 1944 The state’s Juvenile Code was enacted.
- 1962 The first halfway house for juveniles was established.
- 1976 Youth who committed status offenses (non-criminal actions such as running away, disobeying parents, or truancy) were no longer placed in institutions.
- 1988 The Juvenile Legislation Package, including the Waiver Laws, which regulate the transfer of juveniles to adult court, became effective.
- 1996 The Juvenile Code was amended to emphasize “adult crime—adult time.” The waiver age was lowered to 14 for many serious offenses, and prosecutors were given the power to request the waiver of youths to the adult system for certain serious crimes. Juvenile courts could impose adult sentences, and adult courts were required to sentence juveniles to the same term as adults.
- 1999 The County Juvenile Agency Act enabled counties to operate programs and facilities to supervise and care for juveniles committed to them by the courts.
- 2005 Legislation allowed the establishment of juvenile drug courts by the Family Division of Circuit Court.

Child Labor Laws

Michigan law limits people under 17 from working more than 48 hours per week when school is not in session. When school is in session, a minor is limited to 48 hours of work and school combined. The minimum age for employment is 14 years, with many exceptions including domestic chores, farming, golf caddying, and refereeing for youth athletic performances.

History of Child Labor, Chicago-Kent College of Law

<http://www.kentlaw.edu/ilhs/hine.htm>

Lessons about child labor based upon photographs by the Progressive reformer Lewis Hine. Additional photos are available through the National Child Labor Committee Collection at the Library of Congress (<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/pp/nclhtml/nlcabt.html>).

Work Permits, Michigan Department of Labor

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/1_Work_Permit_Fact_Sheet_110419_7.pdf

Summarizes the work permit rules of the Michigan Youth Employment Standards Act.

Youth and Labor, U.S. Department of Labor

<http://www.dol.gov/dol/topic/youthlabor/index.htm>

Detailed information about youth employment, including YouthRules!, an initiative to promote positive and safe work experiences for young people.